NUMB. CLV.

The SPECTATOR.

—— Hæ nugæ ſeria ducunt
In mala —— Hor.

Tueſday, Auguſt 28. 1711.

I Have more than once taken Notice of an indecent Licenſe taken in Diſcourſe, wherein the Converſation on one Part is involuntary, and the Effect of ſome neceſſary Circumſtance. This happens in travelling together in the ſame Stage-Coach, ſitting near each other in any publick Aſſembly, or the like. I have upon making Obſervations of this ſort received innumerable Meſſages, from that Part of the fair Sex, whoſe Way in Life it is to be of any Trade or publick Way of Life. They are all to a Woman urgent with me to lay before the World the unhappy Circumſtance they are under, from the unreaſonable Liberty which is taken in their Preſence, to talk on what Subject it is thought fit by every Coxcomb who wants Underſtanding or Breeding. One or two of theſe Complaints I ſhall ſet down.

'Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Keep a Coffee-houſe, and am one of thoſe whom you have thought fit to mention as an 'Idol ſome Time ago: I ſuffered a good deal of 'Raillery upon that Occaſion; but ſhall heartily 'forgive you, who were the Cauſe of it, if you 'will do me Juſtice in another Point. What I aſk 'of you, is to acquaint my Cuſtomers (who are 'otherwiſe very good ones) that I am unavoidably 'baſped in my Bar, and cannot help hearing the 'improper Diſcourſes they are pleaſed to entertain 'me with. They ſtrive who ſhall ſay the moſt immodeſt things in my Hearing: At the ſame time 'half a dozen of them loll at the Bar ſtaring juſt 'in my Face, ready to interpret my Looks and 'Geſtures, according to their own Imaginations. 'In this paſſive Condition I know not where to caſt 'my Eyes, place my Hands, or what to employ 'my ſelf in: But this Confuſion is to be a Jeſt, 'and I hear them ſay in the End, with an inſipid 'Air of Mirth and Subtlety, Let her alone, ſhe 'knows as well as we for all ſhe looks ſo. Good 'Mr. SPECTATOR, perſwade Gentlemen that this is 'out of all Decency. Say it is poſſible a Woman 'may be modeſt, and yet keep a publick Houſe. 'Be pleas'd to argue, that in Truth the Affront is 'the more unpardonable becauſe I am obliged to 'ſuffer it, and cannot fly from it. I do aſſure you, 'Sir, the Chearfulneſs of Life which would ariſe 'from the honeſt Gain I have, is utterly loſt to 'me from the endleſs, flat, impertinent Pleaſantries which I hear from Morning to Night. In 'a Word, it is too much for me to bear, and I de'ſire you to acquaint them, that I will keep Pen 'and Ink at the Bar and write down all they ſay to 'me, and ſend it to you for the Preſs. It is 'poſſible when they ſee how empty what they 'ſpeak, without the Advantage of an impudent 'Countenance and Geſture, will appear, they may 'come to ſome Senſe of themſelves, and the In'ſults they are guilty of towards me. I am,

Sir,

Your moſt humble Servant,

The Idol.

This Repreſentation is ſo juſt, that it is hard to ſpeak of it without an Indignation which perhaps would appear too elevated to ſuch as can be guilty of this inhumane Treatment, where they ſee they affront a modeſt, plain, and judicious Behaviour. This Correſpondent is not the only Sufferer in this Kind, for I have long Letters both from the *Royal* and *New Exchange* on the ſame Subject. They tell me that a young Fop cannot buy a Pair of Gloves, but he is at the ſame Time ſtraining for ſome ingenious Ribaldry to ſay to the young Woman who helps them on. It is no ſmall Addition to the Calamity, that the Rogues buy as hard as the plaineſt and modeſteſt Cuſtomers they have; beſides which they loll upon their Counters half an Hour longer than they need, to drive away other Cuſtomers, who are to ſhare their Impertinencies with the Milliner, or go to another Shop. Letters from

from *'Change Alley* are full of the same Evil, and the Girls tell me except I can chace some eminent Merchants from their Shops they shall in a short Time fail. It is very unaccountable, that Men can have so little Deference to all Mankind who pass by them, as to bear being seen toying by two's and three's at a Time, with no other Purpose but to appear gay enough to keep up a light Conversation of common-place jests, to the injury of her whose Credit is certainly hurt by it, tho' their own may be strong enough to bear it. When we come to have exact Accounts of these Conversations, it is not to be doubted but that their Discourses will raise the usual Stile of buying and selling: Instead of the plain down-right lying, and asking and bidding so unequally to what they will really give and take, we may hope to have from these fine Folks an Exchange of Complements. There must certainly be a great deal of pleasant Difference between the Commerce of Lovers, and all other Dealers, who are, in a Kind, Adversaries. A sealed Bond or a Bank Note, would be a pretty Gallantry to convey unseen into the Hands of one whom a Director is charmed with; otherwise the City Loiterers are still more unreasonable than those at the other End of the Town: At the *New Exchange* they are eloquent for want of Cash, but in the City they ought with Cash to supply their want of Eloquence.

If one might be serious on this prevailing Folly, one might observe, that it is a melancholy thing, when the World is mercenary even to the buying and selling our very Persons, that young Women, tho' they have never so great Attractions from Nature, are never the nearer being happily disposed of in Marriage; I say it is very hard under this Necessity, it shall not be possible for them to go into a Way of Trade for their Maintenance, but that their very Excellences and personal Perfections shall be a Disadvantage to them, and subject them to be treated as if they stood there to sell their Persons to Prostitution. There cannot be a more melancholy Circumstance to one who has made any Observation in the World, than one of these erring Creatures exposed to Bankruptcy. When that happens, none of these toying Fools will do any more than any other Man they meet to preserve her from Infamy, Insult, and Distemper. A Woman is naturally more helpless than the other Sex; and a Man of Honour and Sense should have this in his View in all Manner of Commerce with her. Were this well weighed, Inconsideration, Ribaldry, and Nonsense would not be more natural to entertain Women with than Men; and it would be as much Impertinence to go into a Shop of one of these young Women without buying, as into that of any other Trader. I shall end this Speculation with a Letter I have received from a pretty Milliner in the City.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Have read your Account of Beauties, and was 'not a little surprized to find no Character of 'my self in it. I do assure you I have little else 'to do but to give Audience as I am such. Here 'are Merchants of no small Consideration, who call 'in as certainly as they go to *'Change*, to say some 'thing of my Roguish Eye: And here is one who 'makes me once or twice a Week tumble over 'all my Goods, and then owns it was only a Gal 'lantry to see me act with these pretty Hands; 'then lays out three Pence in a little Ribband for 'his Wrist-bands, and thinks he is a Man of great 'Vivacity. There is an ugly Thing not far off 'me whose Shop is frequented only by People of 'Business, that is all Day long as busy as possible. 'Must I that am a Beauty be treated with for no 'thing but my Beauty? Be pleased to assign Rates 'to my kind Glances, or make all pay who come 'to see me, or I shall be undone by my Admirers 'for want of Customers. *Albacinda, Eudosia*, and 'all the rest would be used just as we are, if they 'were in our Condition; therefore pray consider 'the Distress of us the lower Order of Beauties, 'and I shall be

Your oblig'd humble Servant.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Never acted but twice.
For the Benefit of the Author.
By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Tuesday, being the 28th of August, will be presented the last new Comedy call'd, The City Ramble; or, a Play to the Wedding. The principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr. Mills, Mr. Booth, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bullock, Sen. Mr. Norris, Mr. Pack, Mr. Bullock, Jun. Mr. Elrington, Mr. Burkhead, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Willis, and Miss Sherborn. N.B. The Tickets given out for Thursday the 23d will pass the 28th.

From the Joint-Adventurer's Office in the Royal 150000 l. Lottery, now kept at Mr. West's in Clare-street, Covent-Garden Market. At which and the following Places mention'd in the Proposals are to be had Share-Tickets at 11s. 6d. with Proposals gratis, viz. of the Cashiers and Trustees, Mr. JOHN TAYLOR at the Office in Exchange-Alley, Mr. Lillie Perfumer at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, North's Coffee-house in King street by Gui'd-hall, and several other Places, and at Read's Coffee-house by Ludgate. N.B. Those that design to be Adventurers in this Undertaking are desir'd to be speedy, for the said Lottery will begin drawing in few Days.

At the Indian Man in Russel-street, Covent-Garden, is a Parcel of rich Jewels, viz. a Brilliant Diamond String and Cross, Ear-Rings, Rings, Buckles, Pendants; and also fine Lace, rich Silks, Muslins, and other valuable Goods, to be disposed of at reasonable Rates, the whole amounting to 675 l. which, for the encouragement of Buyers, will be divided into 360 Shares, the biggest whereof is 100 l. Value, and the least 10 s. Any one of these may be purchased for the little Sum of Half a Crown, as may be known more at large at the Place of Sale, where Attendance will be given till all the Goods be sold. It not being quite full, is put off to the 18th of October, at which Time the Shares will be divided without fail. It had not been put off so long if there had not at present been so much Company out of Town. If it be full sooner it shall be advertised again in this Paper.

The Delightful Chymical Liquor, for the Breath, Teeth, and Gums. Which in a Moment makes the most Nauseous Breath Smell delicately Fine and Charming, and in very little time infallibly Cures, so that an offensive Breath will not return; It certainly makes the blackest and most foul Teeth perfectly White, clean and beautiful to a Miracle; Cures the Scurvy in the Gums, tho' never so inveterate, making the Flesh grow again, when almost Eaten away, and infallibly, fastens loose Teeth to Admiration, even in Old People, who too often falsly think their Age to be the Occasion: In short, for delightfully Perfuming, and quickly Curing an ill-scented Breath, for presently making the blackest Teeth most excellently White, certainly fastening them when Loose, effectually preserving them from Rotting or Decaying, and effectually Curing the Scurvy in the Gums, it has not its Equal in the Universe, as Abundance of the Nobility and Gentry throughout the Kingdom have Experienced. Is Sold at Mr. Payn's Toy-Shop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard, near Cheap-side at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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